



October 20, 2017

The Honorable Jim Tedder
N-892 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Proposed bill to revise the Public Health Code, Part 181 Counseling

Dear Rep. Tedder,

I am writing to you as a representative of the Master of Arts in Counseling Program (MAC) at Spring Arbor University. The Spring Arbor University MAC faculty are in full support of the introduction of a bill to revise the Counselor Licensure Law (Part 181 Public Health Code). This bill is critical in providing professional counselors in the state of Michigan with much needed clarification of scope and practice. Much has changed in the counseling profession since the law was passed in 1989. These proposed additions to the Counselor Licensure Law will update the scope of practice to reflect what has always been present in the Administrative Rules, namely the provision of services such as diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment. Additionally, these are services which counselors have always been engaged in since the passage of the law.

The proposed updates to the scope of practice of professional counselors reflects the training standards of the national accrediting body for counseling programs, the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). These training standards have been adopted by the Michigan Board of Counseling and are the national norm. Since these training standards drive the course content at universities across the state, including ours, it makes perfect sense that they be incorporated into the updated statute.

Additionally, the proposed updated scope of practice reflects a model scope of practice for professional counselors that has been endorsed by the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), two groups working hard to move toward national licensure portability for professional counselors. It is imperative that the Michigan Public Health Code reflect these accepted national standards to insure portability in the future.